

HISTORIC PARKWAY POLICY

INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBMITTING PUBLIC COMMENT:

- The deadline for submitting comments on this policy is Friday, January 12.
- Please submit comments c/o Victoria Bonarrigo via email at DCR.Policies@State.MA.US (email address will be active on Monday, December 11) or via mail at:
Victoria Bonarrigo
Department of Conservation and Recreation
251 Causeway Street, Suite 600
Boston, MA 02114
- If submitting comment via email, please write the title of the policy in the subject bar.

HISTORIC PARKWAY POLICY

POLICY: DCR recognizes and protects the historic significance and unique character of the historic parkways in the urban and state parks systems which provide vital transportation links and recreational experiences within a historic and natural landscape. Working toward a balance of safety, recreation and resource protection, DCR will plan, design and undertake maintenance, rehabilitation, restoration and reconstruction of its historic parkways in accordance with the DCR Historic Parkway Preservation Treatment Guidelines (DCR 2006).

APPLICABILITY: This policy applies to planning, construction and maintenance activities for all DCR owned and/or controlled parkways, whether funded and managed by DCR or by a private entity or another state agency. The planning process outlined in the Guidelines is designed to ensure that transparent decision-making and public participation are a critical component of major modification, rehabilitation, restoration or reconstruction projects that have the potential to alter the character of a historic parkway. A comprehensive assessment and design process should be undertaken for projects that may result in one or more of the following:

- Alterations to the way a parkway currently functions (speed, capacity or safety),

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Kerry Healey
Lt. Governor

Robert W. Gollidge, Jr., Secretary
Executive Office of Environmental Affairs

Stephen H. Burrington, Commissioner
Department of Conservation & Recreation

- Introduction of new elements such as signage systems, traffic control measures, grade separation, incompatible landscape features, lighting systems or signals,
- Change in the balance among users (bicyclists, pedestrians and vehicles)
- Removal, rehabilitation or reconstruction of a significant historic feature such as a bridge, lighting or landscape features.

TABLE OF CONTENTS: The description of and general implementation guidelines for this policy follow below.

APPENDICES: Following this cover sheet as an attachment are the Historic Parkway Guidelines.

PROCEDURES: The following implementation strategy will ensure that all activities on historic parkways in the DCR system are carried out in accordance with the Historic Parkway Preservation Treatment Guidelines (referred to as “the Guidelines”) and to provide the many stakeholders the opportunity to be informed and provide input on those activities. The strategy includes agency rollout, integration of the Guidelines into existing DCR systems, participation by the public and annual review by the DCR Stewardship Council.

1. The Commissioner shall designate a staff person to coordinate agency implementation of this policy.
2. The agency shall initiate a program of professional development to provide training on the Guidelines and other relevant subject areas to help DCR planning, engineering, project management and operations staff perform key functional tasks related to planning, design and maintenance of its historic parkways.
3. The Guidelines must be applied to all historic parkway capital projects, maintenance activities and permits issued by the agency. Requests for exceptions from the Guidelines must be submitted in writing for review and approval by the Commissioner with the reasons why the Guidelines cannot be followed. DCR will provide the Stewardship Council with an annual report of all exception requests. The report will list exceptions made within the past year and exceptions that are anticipated in the following year. The Design Control Report documenting project exceptions will be attached and incorporated only by reference. No exception shall be granted to the requirement that a comprehensive assessment and design process shall be undertaken for major modification, rehabilitation, restoration or reconstruction projects that have the potential to alter the character of a historic parkway.

4. DCR will integrate the parkway maintenance Guidelines into the Facility Asset Management Information System (FAMIS) work order system to ensure that baseline goals and level of service are consistent throughout the parkway system.

5. DCR will conduct annual system-wide spring reconnaissance inspections and evaluations of historic parkways to identify (1) immediate/emergency maintenance repairs, (2) annual planned maintenance activities (3) special initiatives (4) capital equipment needs and (5) major capital improvements. DCR will incorporate the data collected during spring reconnaissance into a parkway work plan. The work plan aims to create a framework for establishing annual priorities, sets project categories, establishes timetables for implementation and identifies project funding mechanisms. The work plan will be made available to the Stewardship Council for review.

6. Each September DCR will hold one or more public forums to report and solicit input on annual capital and operational activities. Input received at public forums will be evaluated and considered by the Commissioner for inclusion in an annual parkway improvement implementation plan, which will be posted for public review. This plan will guide DCR's annual operating and capital budget planning relative to parkway improvements.

7. Upon review and approval of the Commissioner, DCR will present the annual parkway improvement implementation plan at the November Stewardship Council meeting for review and concurrence.

8. Application of the Guidelines does not preclude compliance with relevant federal, state and local laws, regulations and requirements.

9. The Guidelines may be revised from time to time. Substantive changes will be posted on the DCR website and the public will be afforded the opportunity to comment.